

**FIRE FACT SHEET**  
**Miles City Interagency Fire**  
**Eastern Montana Fire Zone**

**Date:** September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Time:** 1000 hours

**Fire Information Contact:** Dena Lang, 406-233-2907 / 406-853-0274 (Cell)

A lightning storm moved throughout Eastern Montana on Sunday evening, September 10<sup>th</sup>. This storm started numerous fires in Eastern Montana. Rain was also received with this storm and this along with quick initial attack and excellent communication between fire agencies allowed firefighters to contain most of the fires on Monday evening.

**Status of Current Fires:**

**White Knob:** This fire is approximately 40 miles east of Miles City, and 7 miles south of Knowlton, MT. The fire started on Tuesday afternoon around 1400 hours and was lightning caused. It is burning in brush and timber on BLM land. 1 BLM engine and 5 Contract engines are currently on scene. 5 SEAT's, 1 Air Attack and 1 BLM Helicopter worked the fire Tuesday afternoon. Firefighters currently have the fire 50% lined.

**Strawberry Hill:** DNRC assisted Miles City Fire and Rescue with this fire east of town. 3 DNRC engines and 1 Type 2 DNRC Helicopter were sent to the fire Tuesday afternoon. Approximately 100 buckets or 32,000 gallons of water (from the helicopter) were dropped on the fire. The fire has been contained.

**Status of Previous Fires:**

**Hatcher:** This fire is approximately 5 miles northeast of Fallon, MT and 15 miles northeast of Terry, MT. The fire has burned a total of 26 acres in grass and juniper on BLM and private land. DNRC assisted Prairie County with the fire by providing a Type 2 DNRC Helicopter, a local dozer, 4 DNRC engines and DNRC overhead personnel. The fire is "looking good" according to DNRC Fire Program Manager, Randy Sanders. Demobilization is scheduled for late Wednesday afternoon.

**Piper Draw:** This fire is 22 miles southeast of Ashland, MT burning on the Custer National Forest, Ashland Ranger District. The fire has been accurately mapped at 37.1 acres and is burning in ponderosa pine and grass understory. 4 BLM engines, 8 Smokejumpers, 3 BLM Helitack personnel, 1 Private engine, 1 Private Tender, 1 seven-person crew and local landowners worked aggressively yesterday afternoon to suppress this fire. A BLM Type 3 Helicopter, 1 Air Attack plane, and 5 SEAT's provided aerial support throughout Monday afternoon to fire crews on the ground. Containment on the fire was reached at 0800 Wednesday morning. The fire is in mop-up status.

**Morgan:** This fire is burning 25-30 miles northwest of Jordan, MT in Garfield County. The fire is currently 160 acres burning in ponderosa pine, juniper and grass on Fish and Wildlife Service, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge lands. 3 CMR engines, 3 Garfield County Volunteer Fire Department engines and 1 BLM engine are fighting this fire. 4 SEAT's, 1 Air Attack, and 1 Helicopter dropped retardant and water on the fire throughout the day Tuesday. The fire is in very rough, broken and steep terrain. Firefighters are worried about the east flank of the fire with the potential weather expected for today.

**Aircraft:** 5 Single Engine Airtankers, 1 Air Attack Platform, 1 Type III Helicopter and 1 Type II DNRC Helicopter are currently stationed at Frank Wiley Field in Miles City.

**Weather and Special Concerns:** Warm and dry weather will continue in the zone today. A cold front will move east through Eastern Montana on Thursday bringing a chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms. Some storms could be dry with gusty winds. Cooler and wetter weather will move into the area by Friday.